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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

20 DEC 1966

BYE 2921-66

Copy 4

The Honorable Charles L. Schultze
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Charlie:

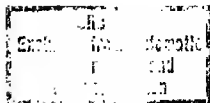
Following our 12 December meeting and after examination of the draft memorandum to the President which you handed me on 16 December, I asked my staff to review the problems involved in making the transition from the A-12 to the SR-71. In the process of this review, which is still in progress, new information of considerable significance has been brought to my attention. In particular, this involved data pertaining to SR-71 altitude and range performance which, when compared to the proven capability of the A-12, is of real concern to me in attempting to relate the performance of the SR-71 to my missions. In addition, as you know, I have misgivings about the electronic warfare systems situation. In view of the above, I am reconsidering my previous position and feel that I need additional time to sort out and further verify the facts and examine in detail comparative mission performance characteristics of the two aircraft.

I appreciate the urgency in getting this problem resolved but I am impelled to reassure myself on all aspects of the matter before firming my views. I, therefore, propose that we meet after 1 January to review the pertinent facts and request you not forward a memorandum to the President until after our meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms



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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Page 2

Signature Recommended

Acting Deputy Director for Science and Technology

Date .

D/SA/ [] fd (19 Dec 66)

25X1

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21 December 1966

Mr. J. Patrick Coyne
Executive Secretary
The President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Executive Office Building

Dear Pat:

Herewith is a copy of Dick Helms' letter to the
Director of the Bureau of the Budget concerning the A-12/
SR-71 problem.

Sincerely,

/s/ John A. Bross

John A. Bross

Attachment
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

DEC 15 1966

Honorable Richard Helms
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dick:

Enclosed is a draft memorandum for the President summarizing our decisions on Monday. I will be available to discuss any changes you may wish to make. Due to the time pressures connected with the FY 1968 Budget, we should try to take this to the President as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Director

Enclosure

WHEN WITH ENCLOSURES

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